

## Centennial Challenge Project – Rehabilitation of Cemetery Ridge

Gettysburg National Military Park  
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

### Project Overview:

The Rehabilitation of Cemetery Ridge project would rehabilitate some of the most historically significant battlefield land in the park by removing the current visitor center building, the Cyclorama building, the parking lots and roads associated with these two buildings, undergrounding 6,700 feet of overhead power lines and re-establishing the historic landscapes and battle lines of 1863. Removal of these modern intrusions, built between 1931 and 1962, is made possible by the opening of the park's new museum/visitor center complex in 2008 which is located over a half mile away from this site.

This project would rehabilitate the 1863 landscape to the heart of the park from the Soldiers' National Cemetery (site of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address) to the "High Water Mark" of the Battle of Gettysburg (site of Pickett's Charge). This area lies within the Pickett's Charge & Pitzer Cultural Landscape and the rehabilitation work would improve the Facility Condition Index (FCI) of this site as well as the condition assessments of all of the List of Classified Structures (LCS) features that were affected by the previous development.



Marker to the 12<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry in the parking lot of the Cyclorama Center.  
(Katie Lawhon- National Park Service)



Marker to the 88<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry in Ziegler's Grove, adjacent to the Cyclorama Center Parking lot.  
(Katie Lawhon- National Park Service)

### Project Description and Impact:

The Cemetery Ridge area is an extremely valuable cultural resource in that it contains features significant to outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg, the setting of Lincoln's

Gettysburg Address, as well as the commemoration of the battle by the veterans of the struggle.

The current Visitor Center, Cyclorama Center and related improvements are located on ground which was held by the Union army and which was the site of major battle action during the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. This area includes such landmarks as Cemetery Hill, Cemetery Ridge, Ziegler's Grove and Gen. Meade's headquarters. The extensive changes brought about by development have greatly altered these and other sites and have obliterated most of the features that existed at the time of the battle. This modern development makes it nearly impossible to visualize the conditions encountered by the soldiers in July 1863 and thus understand how those features and conditions influenced the fighting that outcome of the Battle.

In order to increase opportunities for interpretation and to provide a more complete reflection of the landscape at the time of the battle, these missing historic features will be rehabilitated. Any changes will successfully balance the rehabilitation of the site with the need for modern amenities such as transportation, parking and visitor access. Some of these needs will be met by the rehabilitation of the Commemorative Era features that served the same purpose and are also nationally significant.

This Centennial Challenge project supports both the Stewardship and Education goals outlined in the program. In terms of the Stewardship goal, this project will improve the condition of the park's resources and assets in these main battle areas; improve the natural resources in the park; as well as provide an inspiring, safe and accessible location for our visitors to enjoy. In terms of the Education goal, the combination of these factors should aid our ability to attract additional visitors to the park, as well as, increase their satisfaction, understanding and appreciation of GNMP. Understanding the sacrifice of the individuals involved in the struggles in these areas as well as the veterans' determination to commemorate their actions should encourage interest not only in future conservation of the park, but also promote a life-long connection of future generations to the park.

The project is included in the park's approved 1999 GMP. A private foundation, the Gettysburg Foundation, has partnered with us to raise the necessary funding to incorporate this project into their current on-going efforts related to our new museum/visitor complex. The Foundation has already committed \$125 million to relocate the park's visitor facilities, and to restore the center of the Union battle line, historic Ziegler's Grove, and other prominent features on Cemetery Ridge, as well as provide for expanded educational opportunities for our visiting public both virtual, and on foot.

**Project Costs:**

Federal Contribution: \$ \$2,588,694.00

Partner Contribution \$ 7,000,000.00

Total Project Costs: \$ 9,588,694.00

**National Park Service  
Gettysburg National Military Park  
Centennial Challenge Proposal**

**Rehabilitation of Cemetery Ridge Fact Sheet**

**Key Points:** The National Park Service, in partnership with the nonprofit Gettysburg Foundation, would rehabilitate some of the most historically significant land on the Gettysburg battlefield by removing the current visitor center building, the Cyclorama building, the parking lots and roads associated with these two buildings, removal of overhead power lines, and re-establishing the historic landscapes at the center of the Union army's battle line in July 1863.

**Background:**

- NPS has long-term agreements with the Gettysburg Foundation, which requires the Foundation to raise \$125 million to construct new visitor facilities at a site two thirds of a mile from the current visitor facilities in an area where there was no major battle action.
- The Gettysburg Foundation's campaign includes rehabilitation of the center of the Union battle line, historic Ziegler's Grove, and other prominent features on Cemetery Ridge, as well as providing expanded educational opportunities for the public.
- The project area is 43.5 acres, containing historic houses, barns, fences, stone walls, and orchards, as well as commemorative features including more than 70 civil war monuments, seven of which will be relocated to their historic locations, where they had been placed by veterans of the battle, but had been subsequently moved during the construction of the Cyclorama building.
- The project also includes removal of 6,700 feet of intrusive power lines along the historic Taneytown Road corridor from Steinwehr Avenue to the horse trail crossing south of Granite School House lane. The power lines will be placed underground.
- Removal of modern intrusions, built between 1931 and 1962, is made possible by the opening of the park's new museum/visitor center complex in 2008.
- The Foundation's *Campaign to Preserve Gettysburg* has already raised \$95 million.
- Mr. Robert Wilburn, former President and CEO of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, is the Gettysburg Foundation President and Chief Executive Officer.
- The project is a major initiative of the park's 1999 General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

**Current Status:**

- The total project cost for the rehabilitation of Cemetery Ridge is \$9,588,694. The Gettysburg Foundation will provide \$7,000,000. The NPS is requesting \$2,588,694 from Congress.

- A Cultural Landscape Report was completed in June 2004 including site history, existing conditions, analysis & evaluation, as well as treatment plan recommendations.

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